

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 8 is amended to add an arrow to show the movement of second object

50.

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 10, 13-16 and 19-23 remain under consideration in this application. Claims 1-9, 11, 17 and 18 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 12 has been cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Disclosure

The Examiner objected to the disclosure due to informalities. By way of the present amendment, Applicants have corrected the reference numerals on page 5, the figure number on page 5 and have reworded the phrase on page 6, line 23 to correspond to the disclosure. Accordingly, this objection is believed to be overcome.

The Examiner objected to claims 12 and 14 due to informalities. By way of the present amendment, the objectionable language of claim 12 has been deleted. In regard to claim 14, Applicants have changed the names of the positions to open or closed to avoid any informality. Accordingly, this objection is also believed to be overcome.

Rejection Under 35 USC 102

Claims 10, 12-16 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Yu (U.S. Patent 6,681,603). Claims 10, 12-16 and 19 also stand

rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Ling (U.S. Patent 4,896,517). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With regard to the Yu reference, the Examiner points out that the references teaches a lock assembly case 10, a bolt assembly 32, a first shackle 201, a second shackle 41,44 and a second object 21. The Examiner also states that Yu teaches a retaining member 42,43 driven by a first shackle 201,202 and spring biased by elastic element 423.

The Examiner states that Ling teaches a case 1, a bolt assembly 50, a first shackle 21,241, a second shackle 7,72,77, a winch 2, a retaining member 63 driven by the first shackle and an elastic member 62 for the retaining member 63.

Applicants submit that the present claims are neither anticipated by or obvious over these references. In particular, Applicants have amended claim 10 to now describe the invention in greater detail. Claim 10 now makes it clear that the second object 50 is selectively removable from the case 10 and that a winch 12 is contained in the case which is selectively locked by the first shackle. Claim 10 has also been amended to point out that the latching of the first shackle also causes the latching of the second shackle. Applicants submit that the invention as presently claimed is not anticipated by either of these references.

Claims 13-16 and 19 depend from claim 10 and as such are also considered to be allowable.

New claims 20-23 have also been added which depend from claim 10.

Claim 20 describes that the first shackle is one of a flexible steel rope, cable or rigid member. Claim 21 describes the second object as being a tool box. Claim 22 describes the movement of the first shackle and the second object from the case. Claim 23 describes the mating coupling between the case and the second object. In view of this, Applicants submit that these claims are additionally allowable.

Summary

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all of the claims are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse (Reg. No. 27,295) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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